

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 005535

NODIS

FOR EDMONDSON

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM LUSAKA DATED JANUARY 10, 1977
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0063

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH ZA

SUBJ: RICHARD MEETING WITH KAUNDA

SUMMARY: RICHARD TOLD KAUNDA THE PRESIDENTS HAD TORPEDOED HIM
WITH THEIR COMMUNIQUE ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND AN END OF
WARFARE. KAUNDA ASSURED RICHARD THAT THE WAR WOULD END UPON
THE FORMATION OF AN INTERIM GOVT; SAID THIS IS WHAT THE COMMUNIQUE
MEANT AND INDICATED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS PREPARED TO ENGAGE
IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. KAUNDA SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO
RICHARD STATING PUBLICLY THE FIRST TWO OF THESE POINTS. END
SUMMARY.

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1. RICHARD AND HIS DELEGATION MET WITH PRES KAUNDA AND A
FAIRLY LARGE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION AT STATE HOUSE MONDAY EVENING
FROM 8:30 PM UNTIL ABOUT 10:30 M.M.
ACCORDING TO RICHARD, HE STARTED THE MEETING OFF SAYING
HE CAME TO LUSAKA IN SORROW. HE FELT THAT THE PRESIDENTS
HAD SHOT HIM WITH TWO TORPEDOS OVER THE WEEKEND:

THE ASSURANCE ON THE END OF THE WAR WAS FAR TOO WEAK TO BE OF ANY HELP, AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD CREATE ENORMOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR CONTINUATION OF HIS NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID HE HAD TO CONSIDER NOW WHETHER IT WAS WORTHWHILE GOING ON WITH THE CONFERENCE AT ALL OR WHETHER HE SHOULD JUST CALL IT OFF AND GO BACK TO LONDON.

2. RICHARD SAID THIS OPENING WAS GREETED BY A LONG PAUSE UPON WHICH KAUNDA CALLED FOR TEA. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A LENGTHY EMOTIONAL AND CONVOLUTED DISCOURSE CALLING FOR SUPPORT FROM THE VARIOUS MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET AND PARTY PRESENT, IN WHICH HE TRACED THE HISTORY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN LET DOWN REPEATEDLY BY THE WEST. HE ENDED UP, HOWEVER, BY MAKING THREE SOMEWHAT MORE POSITIVE POINTS; FIRST HE COULD GIVE ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE THAT IN THE EVENT AN INTERIM GOVT WAS FORMED WHICH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE WAR WOULD CEASE; SECOND, HE SAID THAT THAT WAS WHAT THE COMMUNIQUE HAD MEANT TO SAY, AND THIRD, HE SAID THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE ON THE BASIS OF RICHARD'S PROPOSALS. IT WAS ANXIOUS TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS AND IT RECOGNIZED THAT IT WOULD NOT RECEIVE COMPLETE POWER IN THE BEGINNING. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IF IT WAS TO RECEIVE COMPLETE POWER, IT WOULD ASK FOR IMMEDIATE INDEPENDENCE. BUT IT RECOGNIZED THAT THE INTERIM PERIOD WAS A PERIOD OF TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE NATURE OF THE BRITISH PRESENCE, ITS POWERS AND THE RELATION OF THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. KAUNDA SAID THE FRONTLINE DID WANT A PRIME MINISTER
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AND HE ASKED THAT THE BRITISH PRODUCE A PAPER ON THE PROPOSALS AND START NEGOTIATING.

3. RICHARD PROPOSED MAKING A STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT TOMORROW WHEN HE LEFT TO THE EFFECT THAT PRES KAUNDA HAD EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WAS TO BE INTERPRETED TO SAY THAT THE WAR WOULD END UPON INITIATION OF AN INTERIM GOVT. RICHARD SAID HE PRESUMED THIS WOULD NOT BE CONTRADICTED. KAUNDA ASSENTED.

4. RICHARD SAID HE TOOK THE ZAMBIANS TO TASK FOR INSISTING THAT FOUR DELEGATIONS BE INVITED TO GENEVA AND THEN CHANGING THEIR MIND AND RECOGNIZING ONLY TWO OF THEM. HE ASKED THEM WHAT THEY WANTED HIM TO DO WITH THE OTHER TWO. KAUNDA REPLIED THAT IT WAS CLEAR WHAT HIS VIEW OF THE OTHER TWO WAS AND LEFT NO DOUBT IN THE BRITISH MIND THAT AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED MUZOREWA WAS NO LONGER TO BE CONSIDERED. KAUNDA ESSENTIALLY ADMITTED THAT HE HAD BEEN WRONG AND CHANGED HIS MIND WITH REGARD TO INVITATIONS TO THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS.

5. COMMENT: THE BRITISH FEEL THEY GOT COLD COMFORT FROM KAUNDA. THEY BELIEVE THAT IN A WAY HE IS LIVING IN AS MUCH OF A DREAM WORLD AS SMITH. GRENNAN IS CONVINCED THAT MUZOREWA, REJECTED BY THE OAU, WILL NOW HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TURN TO NEGOTIATIONS DIRECTLY WITH SMITH. NEVERTHELESS THEY BELIEVE THAT KAUNDA'S THREE POINTS WERE POSITIVE AND THAT THEY MAY BE WORTH TRYING TO BUILD ON. NEITHER KAUNDA NOR CHONA APPARENTLY RAISED THE OBJECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL EXPRESSED TO ME EARLIER IN THE EVENING. (SEE PREVIOUS TEL.) THEY APPARENTLY FELT THEY HAD PUSHED THEIR LUCK WITH RICHARD FAR ENOUGH.

6. DEPT PLEASE PASS NAIROBI AND DAR FOR EDMONDSON. LOW UN-QUOTE KISSINGER

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